



# CHINFO NEWS CLIPS

*Navy Office of Information, Washington, DC*

*(703) 697-5342*

**Tuesday, October 12, 2004**

**SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE 11 OCT 04**

## **Navy Changes How It Names Carriers' Warship Groups**

### ***Some Admirals Get Added Authority***

By James W. Crawley

The Navy has changed the way it names the flotillas of warships gathered around aircraft carriers.

The move, on orders of Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark, is more than a formality.

It boosts the power of three-star vice admirals in charge of the San Diego-based 3rd Fleet and Virginia-based 2nd Fleet to get crews and warships prepared for deployments to trouble spots around the world.

Also, the two-star rear admirals who command the groups have added responsibility for the ships in their flotillas.

"What we wanted to do was to give them the authority they needed to do their jobs more effectively and efficiently," said Capt. Alfred Gonzalez, manpower and personnel director for the Navy's Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Va., which oversaw the name change.

For years, the Navy's 12 carriers have been flagships for either a carrier group or a cruiser-destroyer Group. For example, the Stennis is the centerpiece of Carrier Group 7, while the Ronald Reagan is the flagship of Cruiser-Destroyer Group 1.

Despite the different names, each group consisted of a carrier and a flotilla of cruisers, destroyers, frigates, submarines and a supply ship.

The only difference in the names was that carrier groups were commanded by a rear admiral with flying experience, and cruiser-destroyer groups were led by admirals with experience in cruisers and destroyers.

"We have the exact same job and the exact same mission," said Rear Adm. Doug Crowder, who commands the Lincoln flotilla and is a surface warfare officer. "That title doesn't make as much sense as it used to."

On Friday, the 12 groups were renamed Carrier Strike Groups, each designated by a different numeral.

Under the old system, the escorting warships often were controlled by different commodores and admirals until just before they deployed from their home ports.

Now, strike group admirals such as Crowder will be in charge year-round.

And, nearly all training will now come under the commander of a numbered fleet, such as 3rd Fleet Vice Adm. Michael McCabe, who coordinates training and readiness for ships based here, the Pacific Northwest and Hawaii.

Crowder said the change would increase accountability for commanding officers to make sure their ships and units are fully trained and ready for combat.

"This is an alignment we've been moving toward" since Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, said Crowder, who is the former director of the Navy's Deep Blue internal think tank.

San Diego-based carriers Stennis, Nimitz and Reagan have become flagships for Carrier Strike Groups 7, 11 and 15, respectively. The Lincoln, based in Washington state and getting ready to deploy to the Western Pacific next month, leads Carrier Strike Group 9.

Changing any organization's name isn't easy.

There are new letterhead, name tags, uniform tabs, e-mail addresses, ball caps and logos.

For Crowder's command, a contest is under way to design a new logo, which is used on patches, stationary and other items.

The sailor-artists have an incentive – the winner gets a PlayStation 2 video-game machine.

Lincoln sailors submitted 37 designs – ranging from stick-figure drawings to intricate designs – and Crowder has whittled them to three finalists.

"Some are incredible," he said.

The ship's draftsman is making final detailed drawings of the final three, and the admiral will pick the winner.

Crowder did reject one suggested patch – a sailor had drawn a logo adorned with the admiral's likeness.

# Rumsfeld Says More Troops May Be Asked For

By Robert Burns

MANAMA, Bahrain — Defense Secretary

Donald H. Rumsfeld indicated on Saturday that U.S. commanders in Iraq may yet decide they need more U.S. troops to ensure a viable national election in January.

"To the extent that's appropriate or needed, obviously that makes sense," Rumsfeld told reporters flying with him from Washington to this Persian Gulf island that is headquarters for the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet. He said he preferred that any troop additions be provided by other countries.

The United States now has about 135,000 troops in Iraq.

As the election draws near, the fear is that insurgents, hoping to disrupt progress toward democracy and create more chaos, will attack polling places.

Rumsfeld arrived at Bahrain International Airport on an overnight flight from Washington and was greeted by Bahraini officials.

Later Saturday Rumsfeld planned to fly aboard an aircraft carrier, the USS John F. Kennedy, in the Gulf to meet with his counterparts from about 18 countries considered allies in the war on terrorism. They include Albania, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Hungary, Macedonia, Mongolia, Qatar and Ukraine.

The minister of defense in Iraq's interim government, Hazim al Shalaan, also was scheduled to attend the rare, if not unprecedented, gathering at sea to talk about political and military developments in Iraq.

While aboard the carrier, Rumsfeld and his counterparts were to observe flight operations and receive a briefing on the Iraq situation in a secure video teleconference with Gen. George Casey in Baghdad. Casey is commander of Multinational Force-Iraq, the top military command in the country.

Rumsfeld flew to Bahrain aboard an Air Force E4-B, a Boeing 747 modified to serve as an airborne command post from which the secretary of defense could communicate with U.S. forces in a nuclear war. On long overseas flights the National Airborne Operations Center saves time because it can be refueled in the air.

In an interview aboard the plane, Rumsfeld was asked whether Casey and his boss, Gen. John Abizaid, the commander of all U.S. forces in the Middle East, had asked for more troops. Rumsfeld did not reply directly. He alluded to the continuing and largely fruitless effort to find countries that

would send forces to provide security for an expanded United Nations presence in Baghdad.

He noted that the United States also had sought foreign contributions of troops to support Saturday's election in Afghanistan. "In the case of Afghanistan we went ahead and put in some extra forces ourselves," he added, referring to the recent decision to send in troops of the 82nd Airborne Division.

He noted that the NATO alliance is helping U.S. and Afghan troops provide security for the Afghan elections, and he forecast that the extra forces would be needed for at least three weeks to ensure that ballots get to central locations for counting.

In Iraq, he said, the first choice for getting extra security is to persuade other countries to contribute rather than sending more American troops.

"To the extent other countries come in and take some of that responsibility, then it might not be necessary. The thing we've got going in Iraq that is very good is the fact that we've got a steady, growing number of security forces because the Iraqi security forces have been growing at a good clip."

He said it was possible that there would be 40,000 more Iraqi security forces trained and equipped to join the counterinsurgency by January. There currently are an estimated 100,000, many of whom are operating alongside American troops. Besides the 135,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, other coalition partners -- mainly Britain, Poland and South Korea -- have another 25,000.

Rumsfeld declined to comment on a New York Times report Friday that the Pentagon had identified 20 to 30 Iraqi insurgent-dominated towns that must be returned to Iraqi government control before the election in January.

"The goal is to assess the situation on the ground -- it's not static, it changes," he said, "and to recognize the reality that it's different in different parts of the country at different times, and continue to fashion plans that address the real world. The enemy is not without a brain."

He described the leaders of the insurgency as adaptive.

"They react to whatever is happening and they try to take advantage of it. They look for opportunities, they look for weaknesses, and so do we," he said.

On a later leg of his trip Rumsfeld is scheduled to visit Romania to attend a NATO defense ministers meeting.

# Admiral Touts ESG's Quick-Response Capability For War On Terror

By Jason Ma

ABOARD THE AMPHIBIOUS SHIP

TARAWA IN THE PACIFIC -- Expeditionary strike groups -- networked flotillas of naval ships -- are well-suited to fight the war on terror, particularly when led by a general or flag officer, according to the admiral in charge of ESG-1.

For years, packs of Navy ships that deployed with Marine Corps forces were known as amphibious ready groups. But the ESG concept, unveiled in 2002, strengthens each group by adding a submarine and surface combatants.

Rear Adm. Robert Conway led the first deployment of an ESG on the Peleliu (LHA-5) last year and is preparing for another deployment on the Tarawa (LHA-1) next year. The ESG concept is ahead of its time, Conway told Inside the Navy in an interview. He cited operations around the eastern coast of Africa, the Middle East and Pakistan.

"We have seen what the future is going to be in terms of the global war and operating in the littorals," Conway said Oct. 4 as the Tarawa began pulling out of San Diego to begin the Trident Warrior '04 exercises.

An ESG is comprised of an amphibious assault ship, an amphibious transport dock ship, a dock landing ship, a guided-missile cruiser, a guided-missile destroyer, a frigate, and a submarine.

The Peleliu-based ESG-1, which included the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, disrupted the "transnational terrorist highway" that runs from the Red Sea, the Horn of Africa and Iraq, Conway said. Around the Horn of Africa, which includes Djibouti, the ESG carried out missions that were "pretty Dick Tracy-like," he said.

The ESG also intercepted ships from Pakistan and used Marines to board them, Conway said. The Peleliu, which deployed in August 2003 as ESG-1, was outfitted with sophisticated command and control equipment that allowed Conway to disperse the ESG ships across Kenya, Somalia, the Horn of Africa and

the Red Sea, where they stayed connected and collected intelligence on terrorists, he said.

The ESG included the submarine Greenville (SSN-772) and the Advanced SEAL Delivery System, a special operations minisub that can dock with the Greenville. When the main ESG ships left an area, the subs would stay behind, "and a whole new world opens up" for them to observe, he noted. "Because when they think we're leaving, all the chatter starts," Conway said. "That's also part of disinformation, which is part of information operations." He acknowledged this tactic resulted in some criticism, but was not specific.

"We got our finger slapped a couple of times," he said.

But aspects of the ESG concept still need some time to mature, Conway said. For example, he said, a consistent policy is needed on who should command an ESG -- an admiral/Marine general or a Navy captain/Marine colonel. He said an admiral or general has the advantage of being able to act more quickly on intelligence and increase the "speed to execution." A captain or colonel, however, would need to go up the chain of command to obtain permission to carry out certain tasks. "And all that time is just time wasted," Conway said.

Another advantage in having higher-ranking officers lead the ESG is that they will be able to fight at the operational level of warfare, such as serving as a joint force maritime component commander or a "mini" joint task force, he said. The ESG could be the entire joint task force in littoral areas that are not that expansive, or it could be a JTF enabler that helps flow people into bigger operational areas, he said. Conway said that during the upcoming exercises, he would play the role of a joint task force commander.

Commodore Dennis DuBard, the Navy captain in charge of ESG-1's amphibious squadron, said flag and general officers have capabilities for planning campaigns and supporting combatant commanders -- tasks at the operational level of war. Navy captains and

**MORE**

Marine colonels, or officers at the “06” level, are good at implementing at the tactical level those imperatives established at the operational level, he said in an interview aboard the Tarawa. A flag or general officer “brings a staff to plan at that next level of warfare that’s not necessarily resident in having an 06 do that,” DuBard said.

Navy spokeswoman Lt. Erin Bailey noted ESG-2, based around the Wasp (LHD-1) and the 22nd MEU, is commanded by a Navy captain and a Marine colonel. The ESG based around the Belleau Wood (LHA-3) and the 11th MEU was commanded by Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Joseph Medina, and known as ESG-3 until Sept. 10, when Medina crossdecked to the amphibious ready group based around the Essex (LHD-2) and the 31st MEU, which then assumed the title of ESG-3.

Navy Lt. Jim Hoeft, a spokesman with Fleet Forces Command, said the 24th MEU began expeditionary strike training with the Saipan (LHA-2), with a Marine colonel and Navy captain in charge. But due to requirements for the war on terror and Operation Iraqi Freedom, these forces have not deployed all together as one ESG, he said.

All ESGs eventually will be commanded by admirals or generals, Conway predicted, but he noted the decision is up to the chief of naval operations and the Marine Corps commandant. “It’s going to be more acceptable to have that flag officer making decisions right there where you’re committing troops and you’re committing lives,” he added.

Consistent training is needed for all the ESGs, including training on the use of aviation, subs and surface ships, Conway said. The training should also focus on enabling an ESG command staff led by a flag or general officer, which would form the nucleus of a joint task force, he said. The process of planning operations needs to be quicker, he added, noting that his staff developed an adaptive planning process during ESG-1’s previous deployment

that emphasized a simultaneous process of gathering intelligence and developing plans of action.

“By sensing it, you’re pulling all the information and all the time you’re continually analyzing it,” Conway said. “So when it does happen and you get the opportunity, you don’t have to go and start from square one, two, three, four, five.”

DuBard, who will deploy with an ESG for the first time next year, said the mix of skill sets on the amphibious squadron commander’s staff needs further clarification. As commodore of the amphibious squadron, he is responsible for the ship-to-shore movement of Marines, and his staff was tailored for that. But with the introduction of the ESG concept, he now has the additional role of sea combat commander and is responsible for protecting the ESG from surface and subsurface threats. The new role also entails the use of offensive capabilities from surface ships and the submarine, he noted.

Some skills that might have to augment the command staff include expertise on the Marine Corps’ maneuver warfare doctrine and the employment of forces ashore, DuBard said. A Marine is already assigned to the staff, but he concentrates on the embarkation of gear and therefore is more of a logistician, he pointed out. Skills related to maritime surveillance and the use of P-3 aircraft, anti-submarine helicopters, and other air assets are needed. Skills in the use of surface combatants, submarines and interdiction are needed as well. The war on terror and the focus on littoral operations emphasize skills in special operations and information operations, he added.

The answer is not necessarily adding people to the staff, DuBard noted. Instead, the solution could be more training for the existing staff, sharing some skills with the ESG commander’s staff, or using reach-back communications to access people skilled in certain disciplines, he said.

# Trident Warrior '04 Tests Network-Centric Ideas Off California Coast

By Jason Ma

**ABOARD THE AMPHIBIOUS SHIP TARAWA IN THE PACIFIC --** The Navy began its Trident Warrior '04 experiment last week to test several network-centric initiatives, including a new satellite communications configuration, an automated fire-data reporting system, and distance-support training.

The Tarawa (LHA-1), Pearl Harbor (LSD-52), Chosin (CG-65) and the John Paul Jones (DDG-52) are the primary ships participating in the event, which is taking place off the coast of Southern California. Trident Warrior '04 is scheduled to last from Oct. 4 to 15, including a stop in San Francisco for Fleet Week.

The experiment is billed as the year's premier Sea Trial event for FORCENet, or the Navy's concept for network-centric warfare. Critics of FORCENet have complained that the effort is too vague and lacks meaning. Naval Network Warfare Command is working on an official definition and a concept of operations for FORCENet that is supposed to make it clearer, said a NETWARCOM spokesman. They are due out sometime this month, he said.

In addition to testing various initiatives, Trident Warrior planners hope to provide the Navy's acquisition community with data on what purchases could be accelerated or modified to better suit the service's needs. The military often receives technology that is years behind the commercial sector, the planners said. Some new systems will also remain on the ships after the experiment -- so in some cases Trident Warrior will double as a training session for the ships' crews.

The experiment is unlike others that produce flashy images of aircraft dropping bombs during neatly arranged war scenarios, said Cmdr. Timothy Jara, director of Trident Warrior '04. While initiatives on distance-support training and better bandwidth management seem disparate, they are all geared toward "raising the whole bar" rather than a "fake war and at the end of the day we all cheer victory."

"Nobody ever wants to address the lowly guy and the training guy down in the bowels of the ship trying to get his rating improved," Jara told Inside the Navy in an interview Oct. 5. "Nobody wants to address some of the less sexy things like just keeping the bandwidth and the ship up on regular maintenance."

Trident Warrior is also meant to evaluate individual systems and initiatives rather than the ability of the crew to perform missions, Jara noted. The experiment's scenarios deliberately were kept "basic" so that the crew did not feel it was being tested, he said. In addition, the crew has just started its training in anticipation of Expeditionary Strike Group-1's deployment next year, he pointed out. Some scenarios include a country probing the ships with sensors, a small boat attack, and a fly-by.

One of the systems being tested is the Supporting Arms Coordination Center-Automated (SACC-A), which is designed to automate the reporting of fire-targeting data. Moving to a digital system and away from a more manual method of reporting the data should increase the speed of executing fires and reduce the chance of errors, Jara said.

Trident Warrior will assess SACC-A's performance in processing three types of targets: immediate targets, or targets of opportunity; time-sensitive targets that require quick action; and planned targets, which have been established through the 72-hour targeting cycle. About a dozen Marines worked on laptops, sitting in front of three chalkboard-sized screens that displayed maps and chatroom messages to help coordinate fire solutions.

Trident Warrior will also work toward developing a recommended operating procedure on how ESGs should process fires information because there is not yet a consistent process across the ESGs, said Ricardo Blanco, fires initiative head for the experiment and a contractor with Booz Allen Hamilton. He was among a contingent of contractors aboard the Tarawa who helped Naval Network Warfare Command run the experiment. Trident Warrior's fires scenarios will tie in with the

**MORE**

Silent Hammer experiment, which is taking place simultaneously and features the submarine Georgia (SSGN-729), Blanco said.

Another initiative is the Extremely High Frequency Time Division Multiple Access Interface Processor (EHF-TIP), a new satellite communications configuration that is supposed to make ship-to-ship connections easier. Under the old configuration, a signal typically goes from a ship, to a satellite, to a land-based network operations center, back to a satellite and down to another ship -- even if it is nearby the first ship. EHF-TIP would shorten that path by allowing a ship to send a signal to a satellite then directly to another ship, said Mark Steers, a contractor with the R. L. Phillips Group who writes information management procedures for systems in Trident Warrior.

Chat messaging is a major feature in the experiment and has the advantage of using up relatively little bandwidth, a commodity in high demand, he said. But the Internet connection went down during the experiment, preventing ships from sending the Web-based chat messages to each other. Jara said crew members on a ship were still able to exchange chat messages, which would not have been possible under the old communications configuration.

"Those are the kind of things that are working for us and have been a huge success for us already," he said.

Losing the Internet connection for a few hours is not a big deal because the experiment

repeats certain tasks, he said, adding that he does not track the experiment's progress by hours but by the number of objectives met. "We don't have very solid network connections on any of the ships in any navy right now," he said. "We're just not there yet."

The loss of the Internet connection prevented the testing of some distance-support services in the early part of the experiment. During Trident Warrior, applications that help a sailor track his career and aid in planning for the future are supposed to be tested, said William Adamo, a training specialist contractor at the Naval Personnel Development Command. Services that connect ships with shore-based specialists in areas like ordnance and engineering are also slated to be tested.

Further, the experiment featured a reach-back test where images taken by a surrogate unmanned aerial vehicle were sent to a facility in Maryland for analysis and target processing. A blue force tracking system that included data on Army and enemy positions was tested as well. The tests are meant to determine how frequently the Global Command and Control System-Maritime can get updated data from the Army's Fort Hood in Texas, said Delores Washburn, a system engineer at Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command and the leader of Trident Warrior's blue force tracking initiative.

## All Eyes On Deck

### *Homeland Defense Strategy Calls For Beefed-Up Protection From Unexpected Places*

By Jason Sherman

The F/A-22 Raptor was designed to tangle with Soviet fighters over Europe. The Littoral Combat Ship was invented to operate near hostile coasts.

If a draft homeland security strategy circulating in the Pentagon is adopted, both power-projection weapons would be reassigned to defensive missions much closer to home - and changes to the U.S. military's development and acquisition plans wouldn't stop there.

The 70-page "Strategy for Home-land Defense and Civil 'Support" describes a layered defense to improve surveillance near U.S. borders and intelligence-gathering overseas, a vision that would re-quire vast constellations of air, land and sea sensors and better battle-management systems and communications gear.

The strategy, produced by Paul McHale, the Pentagon's assistant secretary for homeland defense, needs Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's approval to go into effect. Rumsfeld had listed the creation of such a strategy among his top 10 priorities for the year.

The draft strategy directs combatant commanders and senior Pentagon civilians to figure out how a new focus on homeland defense would change the needs for force structure, technology and management. The Pentagon is already preparing to launch a raft of studies to nail down the answers.

#### **Existing gear**

The changes would start with weapons due to arrive in a few years.

"There are many aspects of homeland defense that the Defense Department can undertake by leveraging assets that it already has," said Scott McMahon, a homeland defense expert at the Rand think tank.

The document calls for the Air Force's F/A-22 Raptor, originally designed to counter Soviet fighters, to protect U.S. cities from cruise missiles. The tri-service F-35 Joint Strike Fighter also would be pressed into domestic service; among the planes it will replace is the

F-16, which flies most of today's homeland air patrol missions.

And the Navy's Littoral Combat Ship, designed to operate off hostile coasts, will be suited to defend U.S. waters, the document says.

Lower-profile programs across the services, such as nonlethal technologies and military medicine, may get more seed money be-cause they can help ground forces, particularly the Army National Guard, carry out homeland defense and civil support missions.

For example, the draft strategy calls for more spending on weapons and technologies that can subdue attackers or disable vehicles and ships without killing people - an area that has gotten more lip service than fiscal commitment from the Pentagon,

For a decade, the Marine Corps has been leading Pentagon efforts in this area. The weapons range from pellets filled with pepper spray that can be fired from a special rifle to a millimeter-wave laser gun that heats an intruder's skin to painful limits.

Ongoing tests and some real-world deployments have proven nonlethal weapons' viability, Marine officials say. But preliminary budget figures show the Joint Non-lethal Weapons Directorate, head-quartered at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., receiving \$44 million in the 2006 budget - a slight decrease from the 2005 budget.

#### **New gear**

The biggest chunk of new money would go toward building a better picture of the air and sea approaches to U.S. territory.

A system is needed to weave data from vast arrays of new sensors into an immediate picture of the approaches, said experts following the issue. Such a system would draw on intelligence and communication tools used by civilian agencies, including the federal Homeland Security Department, the FBI and even local fire and police departments.

"Maritime ... is one area that cries out for closer cooperation" between the Defense and Homeland

**MORE**

Security departments, said James Carafano, a homeland defense ex-pert at the Heritage Foundation in Washington.

"It is the one seam where we need to be seamless and where we just haven't had the level of cooperation and integration between DoD and DHS that we absolutely need," Carafano said.

Adm. Vern Clark, the Navy's chief of naval operations, began calling in 2002 for a "maritime NORAD," referring to the North American Aerospace Defense Command, to track and identify all ships approaching U.S. shores and "extend the security of the United States far seaward."

A 2003 Defense Science Board study underlined the technical shortcomings faced by U.S. Northern Command, which plans, organizes and carries out the defense of U.S. territory. The command, which controls few permanently assigned forces, does not have the technical ability to scan all horizons, said the chairman of that study, titled "DoD Roles and Missions in Homeland Security."

Today's Navy and Coast Guard can react to threats, but are limited by what can be spotted by radar and sonar or other intelligence assets, said retired Adm. Don Pilling, a former vice chief of naval operations.

"It was clear during the Defense Science Board review that we have assigned NorthCom large expanses of ocean without the ability to have a very good idea of what was happening all the time" in the command's area of responsibility, Pilling said. "If we were to put radars in space that were able to track the oceans, we'd have a lot more capability."

Navy Secretary Gordon England has offered his own "maritime domain awareness" vision that would combine data and intelligence from the Navy, Coast Guard, 19 other agencies and U.S. allies. The picture would cover not just maritime threats but ones in space and cyberspace as well, England said Sept. 29 at the U.S. Naval Institute Warfare Exposition and Symposium in Virginia Beach, Va.

Cooperative Engagement Capability, a Navy program that lets warships share radar pictures and data, also could help. It will be installed on 38 ships and 16 aircraft by fiscal 2006, Navy officials say.

The draft document also directs NORAD to develop a plan for a joint deployable area air and cruise missile defense system that can defend U.S. territory from everything from missiles to stealthy aircraft.

"A true national air defense capability that covers all U.S. territory 24/7 would be a very significant additional investment," said McMahon, the Rand analyst.

Before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, NORAD was looking for external threats using a series of radars set up along the coasts, but had no way to tap into the interior radars used by the Federal Aviation Administration to track domestic air traffic.

In the three years since the attacks, NORAD has linked up to about 70 of the FAA's long-range interior radars and is integrating close to 40 of the administration's terminal approach control radars, Air Force Gen. Ralph Everhart, NORAD and Northern Command boss, told the Senate Armed Services Committee in March.

On other fronts, the draft strategy cites a need for improved collaboration and coordination between defense and civilian agencies to develop new medicines, vaccines and disease detection capabilities.

The draft document also calls for leveraging military expertise to help civilian agencies prepare for, prevent and respond to attack, and some of that is already under-way.

For example, subject matter experts in biodefense already are sharing a campus at Fort Detrick, Md. They include the Department of Homeland Security's National Bioterrorism Analysis and Countermeasures Center and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases.

That kind of collaboration is "extremely important," said retired Lt. Gen. James Peake, who recently stepped down as the Army surgeon general.

In addition, Army medical re-engineering efforts are under-way to position reserve mobile hospitals for swift response to mass casualties.

### **Questions remain**

Some homeland security experts question the new draft strategy's core idea of a layered defense. Many maritime threats will masquerade as legitimate commercial traffic,

**MORE**



which requires a different approach, said Stephen Flynn, senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and author of "America the Vulnerable: How Our Government Is Failing to Protect Us From Terrorism."

Flynn said such floating Trojan horses will be stopped not just by new sensors but by police work and procedures that identify crews and cargo coming into U.S. waters.

"The layered defense approach is still very much a response to a conventional threat," Flynn said. "What I see maritime domain awareness developing into is a chance for the

satellite companies to make a return on their investment by tracking things moving across the waterways."

And for all the new ideas, home-land security won't take over the entire budget, said Bert Tussing, professor of national security affairs at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. He helped review the draft strategy and co-wrote a paper last year describing a layered defense and intelligence net-work.

"Invariably, there are going to be resource considerations because we're facing a new world, a new threat," Tussing said.

# Authorization Conferees Agree To \$446 Billion FY-05 Defense Budget

By John Liang

On the eve of the congressional election recess, House and Senate authorization conferees have agreed to a \$446 billion fiscal year 2005 defense budget.

The conferees managed to iron out major differences on base closure and realignment, "Buy America" provisions and leasing airborne refueling tankers. They agreed to authorize a multiyear procurement for 100 new aerial refueling tankers and prohibited the Air Force from leasing the aircraft. Any contract for tanker maintenance and logistical support should be competitively awarded, according to statements issued by the House and Senate Armed Services committees.

On BRAC, the conferees agreed to bite the bullet and allow the Defense Department to proceed with its base closure round in 2005. At the same time, seven out of the nine BRAC commissioners must agree to shut down a base not recommended for closure by the defense secretary. "This provision will ensure that bases that the DOD determines are vital to national defense are not closed or realigned without a supermajority of BRAC commissioners supporting such a decision," the House committee's statement reads.

"This top administration priority is absolutely essential and necessary for 2005, to allow the department to evaluate its infrastructure and to make smart decisions to support a well-postured 21st century military," Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner (R-VA) said in his committee's statement. "We must complete this crucial process over the next year in order to reduce aging, excess infrastructure, provide resources for the military where they need it the most, and

provide investment and development opportunities for the local communities that so strongly support our military forces," he added.

The conferees' BRAC agreement immediately came under fire, with Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-CA) issuing a statement Oct. 8 saying she was "very disappointed" with the conference report. "At a time when nearly 140,000 troops are deployed in Iraq, America should be sending the signal that we want to support our troops -- not irresponsibly undermine our military mission by closing bases.

"I continue to argue that the politicized BRAC process is flawed and implementing it leaves us without a plan to maintain America's international role," she said.

On Buy America, the conferees agreed to a provision that would "require the secretary of defense to develop a comprehensive acquisition trade policy to ensure that U.S. firms and U.S. employment in the defense sector are not disadvantaged by unilateral procurement practices by foreign governments, such as the imposition of offset agreements in a manner that undermines the U.S. defense industrial base," according to the House statement.

The conferees also agreed to authorize a 3.5 percent military pay raise as well as manpower increases in the Army of 20,000 and 3,000 in the Marine Corps. They approved \$10 billion for missile defense funding; \$572 million for additional up-armored humvees; and \$500 million to train and equip Afghan and Iraqi military and security forces. Further, they included a "humane treatment" of prisoners provision and authorized an additional \$47 million to field seven more Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams.

# Navy Comptroller Nominee Dodges Question On Incremental Funding

By Christopher J. Castelli

Richard Greco, the Bush administration's nominee to become the Navy's comptroller, is steering clear of debate on Capitol Hill about whether the department should be allowed to incrementally fund the construction of individual ships -- paying for a vessel over several years instead of budgeting all the money needed up front.

Some lawmakers support incremental funding, but appropriators are particularly strong critics of the idea. In questions prepared for his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee Oct. 6, the panel noted the Navy "has begun relying on incremental funding" and asked Greco, "In your view, what are the likely benefits or advantages of incremental funding?"

In his written response, Greco did not take a position on the issue.

"I have not yet had an opportunity to study an objective analysis of alternative funding mechanisms for shipbuilding but, if confirmed, I will give careful consideration to innovative methods of meeting future requirements and I look forward to working with this committee on these matters," Greco replied.

The prepared questions also asked Greco about the likely costs and disadvantages of using incremental funding for shipbuilding.

"How do you weigh these competing costs and benefits, and what approach do you believe

the Navy should take toward incremental funding of ships?" the panel asked. In reply to the follow-up questions, Greco simply referred lawmakers to his initial response.

During the confirmation hearing, incremental funding did not come up as a discussion topic. Relatively little time was spent discussing Greco's nomination.

Rather, the focus was on Air Force Gen. Gregory Martin, head of Air Force Materiel Command, who was at the time of the hearing President Bush's nominee to lead U.S. Pacific Command. Initially, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) raised questions about Martin's nomination because copies of certain e-mail messages from Martin about the Air Force tanker scandal were being withheld from the committee by the Pentagon. But when Martin suggested former Air Force acquisition executive Darlene Druyun might not be guilty of the criminal charges to which she has pled guilty, McCain exploded.

"General, I'm questioning your qualifications for command," McCain said. "A person pleads guilty in federal court to a crime that's going to send them to jail and you question whether she was telling the truth?"

"Yes, sir," Martin replied. That night, the Pentagon announced Martin requested his nomination be withdrawn. Adm. Thomas Fargo continues to serve as head of Pacific Command.

# Silent Service Packs More Punch

## *Exercise Tests Spec-War Mission*

By Gidget Fuentes

ABOARD USS GEORGIA - For the crew of this ballistic-turned-cruise missile nuclear submarine, the ongoing Silent Hammer experiment isn't just a sea trial.

It's nearly a sea change.

The experiment, which was scheduled to run Oct. 4 through Oct. 14, is examining how special operations forces, including Navy SEALs, can conduct large-scale, joint clandestine missions while operating undersea from a cruise missile-capable nuclear submarine.

To test and flex the power of advanced systems, sensors and technologies installed for command and control, the beefy submarine is spending more time close to the waterline, often in shallow water off San Clemente Island, west of San Diego. For a Trident submarine that's spent 20 years in deep seas on long hunts to track enemy boats, that's a little too close for comfort.

"Shallow water - we used to never go near that," said Electronics Technician 3rd Class (SS) Corey Wood, a 22-year-old former missile technician from New Orleans. "Now we do it on a regular basis, staying at periscope depth for hours on end."

That's quite a change from typical patrols in deep water, where courses are plotted and checked every 30 minutes, a more relaxed pace, especially when standing a six-hour watch. But the Silent Hammer sea trial has required lots of surfacing and diving.

With conditions and depths changing more often, the Georgia's navigators have seen their workload climb exponentially. "If we're plotting every three minutes, you're staring at the clock," said Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SS) Brian Klein, 23, of Phoenix. "It's a little bit more than we're used to."

Silent Hammer program managers also are evaluating how the submarine can launch a "flexible payload module" fired from a

conventional missile tube. A "stealthy, affordable capsule" shot from the submarine missile tube could conceivably release unmanned aerial vehicles, missiles, weapons of other "plug and play" systems in the military's inventory.

Later this year, the Georgia will head to Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Va., to begin its refueling and conversion to SSGN. The Navy will spend \$3.8 billion to convert a total of four Tridents - the Ohio, Michigan and Florida are also on tap - said Cmdr. David M. Duryea, program manager for Advanced Submarine Systems Development at Naval Sea Systems Command and former Florida commander.

Officials say the Silent Hammer experiment holds great promise for joint special operations forces, including Navy SEALs. "This is just one medium for us to work with," said Capt. Rick Bremseth, Naval Special Warfare Group Three commander and NSW Task Group commander for Silent Hammer. "It's a really good one because of its clandestine nature."

SEALs have largely stayed to themselves while planning missions and training but have joined the crew in the lounge for movies. "For the most part, you don't really see them," said Command Master Chief Bob Krzywdzinski, chief of the boat. With ample room on-board, "it's been a non-issue."

But they are here. "They eat a lot," said Culinary Specialist 2nd Class (SS) Joe Kelley. "It is amazing to see how much they eat."

Freezer stocks have shrunk as cooks tap into twice the usual food. Forget midrats; commandos are hungry at 3 a.m., he said. So a refrigerated case is packed with yogurt cups and breakfast burritos, and the soup pot is always full.

"They're going to be as much a part of this as we are," Klein said of SEALs, adding: "They will probably set a standard doing PT while underway."

# Navy Subs Get Life Extension

## *Ships May Be Turned Into Undersea Command Posts*

By James W. Crawley

The ballistic-missile submarine Georgia lurks off San Clemente Island. Its missile tubes have been emptied of their nuclear warheads.

A team of Navy SEALs has taken over several compartments and vacant tubes. Contractors and naval engineers have modified other spaces into a battle command center.

The Washington state-based Georgia and its 155-member crew are the centerpiece of a Navy experiment called Silent Hammer.

The Navy is studying ways that four former boomers – the nickname for missile subs – can become stealthy, undersea command posts, surveillance centers and launching pads for hundreds of Tomahawk cruise missiles.

"We're pushing the envelope" for submarines, said Cmdr. Dave Duryea, Silent Hammer project manager.

The trial began a week ago and ends Thursday.

Over the next few years, the Pentagon will convert ballistic-missile subs Georgia, Ohio, Michigan and Florida into nuclear guided-missile submarines, known by the Navy acronym SSGN.

Each submarine's 24 Trident intercontinental ballistic missiles will be replaced by up to 154 cruise missiles. The subs were scheduled for the scrap heap to comply with a strategic arms reduction treaty, but Pentagon planners realized the subs could be converted into launching pads for cruise missiles.

Several other changes are planned, including the modification of two missile silos and several compartments into special chambers and berthing for commandos and their gear. Also, an air lock and a docking hatch for the SEALs' new minisub, called the Advanced Delivery System, will be installed.

Putting Navy SEALs and their minisub aboard the large submarines and newer attack submarines should expand the number and types of missions the commandos can accomplish, said Scott Truver, a naval analyst and group vice president of Anteon Corp. in Washington.

Duryea said that's exactly the purpose of trials such as Silent Hammer.

"We're continuing to work on developing teamwork between special-operations (forces) and submarines," he said.

For Silent Hammer, a prototype battle-management center has been carved out in the Georgia, Duryea said.

"It's the first time to have an embarked commander and staff on a sub who can command and control (special-operations) forces," he said. Because of submarines' stealthy nature and cramped quarters, the undersea vessels have never been command posts.

The sub has room for up to 60 SEALs and their gear – many times the number that could be carried on smaller attack submarines.

Besides Tomahawk missiles, the former ICBM launch tubes, which are 88 inches across and more than 44 feet high, could be loaded with modules containing unmanned aerial or underwater vehicles or other short-range missiles, Duryea said.

"There's a lot of things you can put in those tubes," Duryea said.

Last week, one of Georgia's missile tubes released a capsule containing a mock-up of an unmanned aerial reconnaissance vehicle that is under development. Although no drone was launched, two Navy airplanes orbiting nearby are sending live surveillance video to the submerged Georgia for analysis as part of the experiment, Duryea said.

The submarine exercise also is linked electronically with another Navy trial, Trident Warrior, which is running simultaneously off the West Coast.

Trident Warrior involves San Diego-based amphibious ships Tarawa, Pearl Harbor and Cleveland; the destroyer John Paul Jones; and the cruiser Chosin. The ships are testing new ways to use satellite and computer communications to speed up coordination and attacks by far-flung ships and aircraft.

"The technology being tested is essential to conduct battles in the future," said Rear Adm. Robert Conway, who commands Expeditionary Strike Group 1, based on the Tarawa.

Experiments such as Silent Hammer can benefit the Navy, analyst Truver said, adding, "It is important, and the results need to be addressed honestly and candidly."

# Naval Shipyards Pleased By Tax Break Bill

## *Critics Fear The Deferral Will Become A Loophole That Lets Corporations Avoid Payments.*

By David Lerman

WASHINGTON -- Northrop Grumman Newport News and other naval shipbuilders won a lucrative tax break from Congress on Monday that could save the industry \$495 million in the next decade.

The provision was buried in the fine print of a mammoth corporate tax-cut package that cleared the Senate and now goes to President Bush, who is expected to sign it.

The shipbuilding measure would allow Newport News and other major shipyards to defer paying the bulk of their taxes until they have profits in hand from Navy contracts. Under current law, the yards must estimate their projected profits years into the future and pay a percentage of their estimated tax annually.

The shipbuilding industry has long pushed for the tax deferral, arguing that the boom-and-bust business cycle of ship construction can make annual tax payments a financial strain.

"This is huge for us," said Cynthia Brown, president of the American Shipbuilding Association, which represents the nation's six major private shipyards. By deferring 60 percent of a shipyard's tax bill for five years, Brown said, the measure promises financial relief during the lean years of ship construction contracts - before a profit is realized.

"The initial years of construction of any ship are when we operate at negative cash flow," Brown said. "Those are the years we are so hard-pressed for cash."

But critics said the provision was just one of many tax giveaways to special corporate interests that the nation can ill afford at a time of soaring budget deficits.

"If you delay taxes enough, eventually you don't pay them," said Tom Schatz, president of Citizens Against Government Waste, a private budget watchdog group that lobbied against the bill. Schatz, in an earlier interview, said his group preferred seeing an across-the-board tax

rate cut instead of special tax breaks for favored industries.

The bill does, in fact, lower tax rates for domestic manufacturers from 35 percent to 32 percent. But it also doles out dozens of tax breaks to selected industries and interest groups, ranging from native Alaskan whalers to NASCAR track owners and importers of Chinese ceiling fans.

In addition, tobacco farmers won a \$10 billion buyout of their quota system, even as lawmakers defeated an effort to give the U.S. Food and Drug Administration the power to regulate tobacco.

The bill began nearly two years ago as a narrowly tailored effort to repeal export tax subsidies that violated global trade rules. Those subsidies had triggered punitive tariffs placed on some U.S. goods by the European Union that have been rising monthly and now stand at 12 percent.

But by the time it cleared both chambers of Congress, the bill had mushroomed into a major corporate tax overhaul with tax breaks to a wide range of industries worth an estimated \$136 billion.

The shipbuilding provision was the legislative handiwork of Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, whose state is home to Bath Iron Works, a builder of Navy destroyers.

The House version of the tax bill did not include the shipbuilding break, but House and Senate negotiators agreed to include it in the final compromise legislation.

The Senate passed the tax bill on a vote of 69 to 17, with both Virginia senators supporting it.

The House approved the bill on a largely party-line vote last week. All Virginia House members supported it except for Rep. Robert C. Scott, D-Newport News; Rep. James P. Moran Jr., D-Alexandria; and Rep. Frank R. Wolf, R-Fairfax.

## New Whale-Stranding Suspect

### ***Sonar: Scientists Are Looking At The Acoustical Ping-Pings Of Navy Ships As A Cause Of Marine Mammal Losing Their Way And Dying.***

By Dennis O'Brien

It remains one of the great mysteries of marine science: Why do whales and other marine mammals strand themselves, swimming into shallow waters and washing ashore to die?

Decades of research show that many of the strandings are caused by age-old maritime hazards: collisions with ships, infections from parasites, starvation and old age.

But scientists have a new suspect these days: Navy sonar.

Whales, dolphins and other marine mammals use echolocation - a kind of natural sonar - to detect predators, hunt for food, find mates, keep track of offspring and orient themselves in a dark and murky world.

"These are acoustic animals, they use sound the way we use vision to orient ourselves and find their way," said Brandon Southall, an expert on marine mammal bioacoustics with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Some marine mammal experts say that Navy sonar, which generates intense sound waves that bounce off objects to reveal their location, confuses the animals and disrupts normal ability to navigate.

Sonar-related strandings are occurring more often as the Navy increases its use of sonar in coastal areas. Since the 1980s, it has caused the stranding of dozens of marine mammals, said the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a California environmental group.

Navy officials say that sonar - by itself - does not automatically cause whale strandings.

"The idea that there's a cause and effect relationship is tenuous at best," said Capt. Mark Boensel, director of environmental readiness for the Chief of Naval Operations.

Navy sonar isn't the only potential problem. Oil company geologists blast ocean beds with high powered air guns to find deep-sea oil deposits. About 80,000 commercial ships, fishing boats and other craft ply oceans every day, sending waves of sound into the depths.

"The oceans are extremely noisy places," said Mardi C. Hastings, a scientist in the Office of Naval Research. Hastings spoke last month at an NOAA-sponsored gathering on marine mammals and noise at the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

At Congress' urging, the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission has set up an advisory panel to find ways to reduce the impact of noise created by all three sources. The group is holding hearings and will issue a report in the spring.

Meanwhile, Navy sonar faces the most intense scrutiny. NRDC sued the Navy two years ago over a plan to use a new type of low-frequency sonar which, environmentalists claimed, would harm whales and other mammals. The group won a judgment that restricts sonar use to Asian waters. But now it's considering another suit over the Navy's more widely used, mid-frequency sonar, deployed in training exercises on 60 percent of the Navy's 300 vessels.

"We don't think that whales should have to die for what are essentially practice sessions," said Joel Reynolds, an NRDC lawyer.

Navy officials say close-in sonar training is critical to deal with a new generation of quieter, diesel-electric submarines, acquired by several foreign navies, that threaten coastal areas.

Navy officials acknowledge that given the right conditions - as occurred in the Bahamas in 2000 - sonar can kill whales. Seventeen, mostly rare beaked whales, stranded themselves over 150 miles of shoreline within 24 hours after a Navy exercise.

But in that case, an unusual mix of conditions, including sea-floor topography, ocean temperatures and salinity levels, combined with the sonar to cause the strandings, Boensel said.

After the Bahamas incident, Boensel said, the Navy stopped using sonar in the area and avoids waters with similar conditions. Navy

**MORE**

officials say they also try to minimize damage by shutting down sonar within 500 yards of marine mammals, training lookouts to spot the animals at sea and holding exercises in waters where whales don't normally swim.

The Navy also spends \$10 million a year to study the problem - 70 percent of all U.S. research on the subject. And it dispatches scientists to strandings each time one is reported. "The U.S. Navy does not go out to sea with the intention of harming animals," Boensel said. "That's not what we're about."

Most of the strandings are confined to a species. "It's the beaked whales that seem to have some type of sensitivity to midrange sonar," said Frank Stone, the Navy's marine mammal program manager.

Exactly why is a mystery.

"We just don't have enough hard data on their physiology and behavior to do anything besides speculate," said James Mead of the Smithsonian Institution, a nationally known expert on beaked whales.

One reason so little is known is that the animals are so elusive - diving as deep as 4,000 feet.

In research near Italy this summer, scientists from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute tracked four beaked whales by attaching miniature acoustic recorders to their bodies. They discovered that the whales only begin to make the clicking sounds they use to locate prey at depths of about 650 feet.

"With these animals, studying their ability to communicate is hard," Southall said. "No one's really sure exactly how it works."

A report last year in the journal *Nature* theorized that sonar off the Canary Islands near Africa in 2002 prompted 10 beaked whales to

surface too quickly, causing decompression sickness, an ailment known among divers as the bends. Others contest that theory.

Scientists say the sonar pulses can reach 235 decibels - the volume of a jet engine up close - but Navy officials say the noise dissipates quickly away from a ship or submarine.

Even so, scientists say whales have extremely sensitive hearing, and some think they panic when they hear a loud sonar ping, interpreting it as a threat. That panic may trigger a toxic reaction as the whale races away to escape.

"It's just fright and flight," said Kenneth C. Balcolm, a marine mammal expert at the Center for Whale Research in Friday Harbor, Wash.

Balcolm videotaped schools of porpoises and killer whales fleeing from a Navy destroyer that was using sonar in Haro Strait last year. The killer whales raised their heads out of the water - an unusual behavior for them - while the porpoises split into groups and swam away "as fast as possible," he said.

Over the next 10 days, a dozen porpoises stranded themselves in nearby waters, an unusually high number, Balcolm says. He believes the sonar caused the strandings - a conclusion the Navy disputes.

Concerns about noise pollution in the oceans - raised whenever a whale stranding makes headlines - are beginning to grab public attention, said Michael Jasny, a senior policy consultant for the NRDC.

The interest, he said, is comparable to past concerns that inspired laws aimed at cleaning up air and waterways. "I think we're at the beginnings of a movement," he said.



# Naval Academy Policies On Sex Assault Studied

By Christian Davenport

A government task force began a review this week of how the U.S. Naval Academy handles reports of sexual assault and harassment by spending two days at the elite Annapolis school interviewing students and faculty.

The committee, which is also looking at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, was created by Congress after another committee last year found that dozens of sexual assault reports at the Air Force Academy in recent years went unheeded by the school's administration.

Although Navy Vice Adm. Gerald L. Hoewing told reporters yesterday that the committee does not expect to find anything so egregious, "there is still some element of sexual harassment and sexual violence at the military academies. And our job is to drive that number down to zero, because our nation deserves it. We're going to do everything we can to do that."

The Defense Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies is part of a broader effort to tackle the problem of sexual harassment in the military. Recently, the Department of Defense has launched a study of sexual assaults among active-duty service members, the Guard and the Reserve. It is also considering harsher punishment for sex crimes under military law.

"Sexual harassment and sexual violence are an anathema to honorable service to our nation," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said in a statement. "We must ensure that the environment within the department . . . is not conducive to sexual misconduct."

Hoewing's committee, which will issue a report to Congress within a year, is not investigating any one incident, he said. It is studying the overall culture of the academies, gauging attitudes toward sexual harassment and

finding ways the institutions can best prevent such problems.

Made up of both military personnel and civilians, the committee plans to meet with counselors and school administrators to see what kind of training students receive and what procedures are in place to handle incidents. The task force will also study how other universities handle the problem.

Hoewing said the committee plans to review past incidents, such as the case last year at the Naval Academy in which a midshipman was charged with raping a 19-year-old female schoolmate. The rape charge was dropped, but the student who was charged was expelled for having "unduly familiar relationships" with two midshipmen of lower rank.

Hoewing said task force members have reviewed "a high-level summary" of reported incidents during the last few years at the academies, but he would not discuss them.

Task force members have already met with more than a hundred midshipmen and cadets. Those meetings, though cursory, left Hoewing feeling "optimistic" about how such problems are handled. Both academies "have a very extensive training program on identification of what is sexual harassment and what is sexual assault," he said.

Committee member Delilah Rumburg, executive director of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, said she was heartened by the willingness of the academies to participate in the program. And she said the military's willingness to open its doors to outside experts is an encouraging sign that it is taking the issue seriously.

"We are going to take a hard look at everything," she said.

# Two Navy Members Charged After Wife's Stabbing In Wisconsin

By The Associated Press

KENOSHA, Wis. - Two members of the U.S. Navy face charges after a woman called the 911 emergency number with a chilling message.

"A woman came to my house and she stabbed me in the back," 31-year-old Rachel Wolf told the dispatcher. Then she gave the woman's license plate number.

Wolf's husband, Eric Wolf, 31, and Kristen Warnakulasuriya, 26, both of Alexandria, Va., now are accused in Kenosha County Circuit Court of a murder plot.

Warnakulasuriya, arrested later Sunday at the Pleasant Prairie home of her mother, was charged Monday with attempted first-degree intentional homicide and aggravated battery. She was held on a \$500,000 cash bond.

Eric Wolf was being held in Virginia on \$500,000 cash bond pending extradition to Wisconsin.

Police Lt. Tom Vieth said Eric Wolf is a member of the Navy's ceremonial detail. Defense lawyer Charles Bennett said Warnakulasuriya is a Naval reservist.

According to the criminal complaint, Eric Wolf incited Warnakulasuriya, his live-in girlfriend, to kill his wife.

Vieth said Eric Wolf denied that allegation during an interview Sunday with Virginia authorities.

However, the complaint quotes Warnakulasuriya as claiming Wolf suggested ways to kill his wife, telling her, "You could

shoot her. You could stab her. You could run her over."

Warnakulasuriya said she discovered that Wolf was married after moving in with him in Virginia. The pair lived in Alexandria, about 10 miles south of Washington, D.C.

Wolf apparently began talking about his marriage after Warnakulasuriya found pictures of his wife and children, ages 2 and 5.

About a month ago, the complaint said, Warnakulasuriya decided to visit her family this weekend in the Kenosha area.

"When she picked this weekend, defendant Wolf stated that she may as well get rid of his wife then," the complaint said. When Warnakulasuriya asked Wolf what he meant, he said, "kill her," according to the complaint.

The complaint said Warnakulasuriya took a small knife from her mother's kitchen and drove her mother's car to the Wolf home, where she introduced herself as a representative from the U.S. Navy's Family and Support Center and went inside to discuss Wolf's financial problems.

After the stabbing, Rachel Wolf went to a neighbor's house to call police. The children were not harmed.

Vieth said investigators used the license plate number to track Warnakulasuriya to her mother's home.

The victim suffered a collapsed lung. Her exact condition was unknown Monday night, but police said she was able to speak to them.

## Cole Families Find Comfort In Memories

By Denise Watson Batts

VIRGINIA BEACH — His room is near the front doors, to the left.

This is where family members tend to wander to sit alone. His portrait hangs between two comfortable navy blue chairs.

It's where Mona Gunn comes after too long a day at Fairlawn Elementary School, where she's principal. Or when she just needs her quiet time. She looks at the medals in the glass case, the plaques, his dimples in old pictures. She finds peace.

Four years ago today, two suicide bombers steered a boat loaded with explosives into the Norfolk-based destroyer Cole while it was refueling in Yemen. The blast killed Gunn's son Cherone and 16 other sailors. Two weeks ago, two men were sentenced to death and four others to prison terms of up to 10 years for their roles in the bombing.

Today, private ceremonies will be held on the ship and at Arlington National Cemetery, where Cherone is buried next to two other Cole sailors.

It isn't enough for the Gunns and other Cole families. It's never enough. Less than a year after the bombing, the Sept. 11 attacks came and seemed to swallow the 17 Cole deaths with them.

The families struggle to make sure their loved ones aren't forgotten.

The memories are vivid on Hunts Pointe Drive.

The Gunns moved here earlier this year after 17 years in their old home, where they'd raised their four boys. Mona Gunn and her husband, Louge, looked all over the area but kept returning to the neighborhood off Indian River Road in Virginia Beach, where Cherone spent many days hanging out with his best friends at Kempsville High School. It just seemed right, she said.

She bought a cherry and glass curio cabinet for the room near the front. On the top shelf sits a laminated copy of her son's funeral program. Next to it is a rolled American flag that once flew on the Cole; Cherone was a signalman and handled flags on the ship. This flag was a gift from a master chief on board who was one of

the first to find Cherone after the explosion. He brought it to the Gunns shortly after and assured them that their son died instantly. The man wept.

On the second shelf is an etched plaque with a sailor figurine on watch. Nearby is a Purple Heart in its case. Next to it is a framed document that reads in part, "This certificate is awarded by a grateful nation in recognition of devoted and selfless consecration." It is signed William Clinton.

Below sit polished trophies: Arrowhead Gamecocks Midget Boys Point-O-View Division Champion 1990 Cherone Gunn. Arrowhead Pistons 1991 Midget Division Champ, Coach's Choice MVP. Close by is Cherone's Navy portrait with his nametag, which was sent home with his personal items. A wooden cross lies an inch away.

To the right is a comfort box that Mona Gunn bought after the bombing. It contains a poem and three glass angels trimmed in gold. It works, sometimes.

Centered on the fourth shelf is a cross-stitched poem made by a parent. In light blue thread, it reads, "When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure."

Tucked next to it is an owl-shaped kitchen ornament with a map of the Maltese Islands on its belly, its talons clutching two poems, "Kitchen Prayer" and "My House." It was returned with Cherone's items. Mona Gunn figures that it was meant to be a present for her. Next is a small plaque from Kempsville Middle School, Most Improved Football 1992-1993.

On the bottom shelf are two caps from his favorite sports teams, the Oakland Raiders and Chicago Bulls, and a letter from American Legion Post 190, which Cherone wanted to join. His father and grandfathers were members. The letter states that Cherone is now one, too.

Next is a gold framed picture of The Quad, Cherone and three of his best male friends, each with a young lady, smiling into the camera.

A letter framed nearby is from the commanding officer of the Cole, who cited Cherone's "superior performance of his duties

**MORE**

while serving as wardroom food service attendant from June 2000 to September 2000.’’

Cherone lives here. In the portraits, in another curio cabinet that holds his mother’s porcelain figurine collection. One of the most prized is titled “My Special Angel.” The figure’s wings are alert as he rests one knee on a cloud, peering below. Mona Gunn bought it a week or two after Cherone’s death.

Small side tables decorate the room and hold stacks of photos. Gunn had to get the tables when she saw them in a store. They’re heart-shaped.

Cherone was born on Valentine’s Day in 1978.

On one table sits a binder three inches thick.

Cherone’s photo is tucked into its plastic cover.

It holds an enlistment certificate, papers detailing the Navy investigation, pages clipped from a magazine with the words, “We Shall Not Forget” and a list of those killed on the Cole.

In the back of the binder are loose sheets that Gunn found after Cherone’s death. They’re questionnaires clipped from a newspaper; he had scrawled answers in pencil.

Favorite movie: “Love Jones.” Favorite TV show: “The Cosby Show.” Favorite toy or game: Sony PlayStation.

Under his hopes for the future, he described his next job: Private investigator or police officer.

Financial status: stable.

And at the top of the column, when asked to fill in a blank, Cherone wrote: I hope to live to be 105 years old.

# Vote Drive Targets Troops Overseas

## *U.S. Tries To Make It Easier For GIs*

By Colin McMahon and Andrew Zajac

BAGHDAD --Sgt. Marc Moyette doesn't put much stock in politics. Like many people in his National Guard unit in Baghdad, Moyette is not a voter. But that may change with this year's presidential election--for Moyette, his buddies and many other U.S. troops overseas.

With a push from Congress, the Pentagon is going to great lengths to ensure that U.S. service members can vote this year, wherever they are. And with foreign policy, the Iraq war and terrorism among the top campaign issues, more fighting men and women are expected to have their say in who will be commander in chief.

But whether a significant number of military votes will go uncounted, as they did in Florida in the 2000 election, remains an open question.

That's because despite the Pentagon's effort to inform troops about how to vote, the military remains hitched to a cumbersome, mostly paper-based system for voting across the globe.

Plans for all-electronic, Internet-based voting were scrapped earlier this year because of security concerns, and the Defense Department has scrambled to assemble a system for expanded balloting by fax and e-mail.

But not all states have signed onto all parts of the plan, leaving a complex mishmash of electoral regulations, procedures and deadlines outlined in a 379-page voter assistance guide for military personnel.

Eighteen states missed a deadline recommended by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to mail overseas absentee ballots at least 45 days before the election.

The delays result from late primaries, disputes over whether candidate Ralph Nader should be on the ballot and fights over initiatives such as a same-sex marriage ban.

That has put even more pressure on military voters to cast ballots quickly to ensure they arrive in time to be counted.

The Pentagon is urging its 435,000 personnel stationed around the globe to vote this week if they haven't already done so. If regular ballots haven't arrived in time, military voters can fill out write-in ballots for federal offices only.

The armed forces do not track turnout, but the supervisor of the voter registration process in Iraq says all but a few dozen of more than 134,000 troops stationed there have been handed absentee ballot applications.

"We had a goal of 100 percent contact," said Army Capt. Ken DeCelle of Alameda, Calif. "We got to 99.98 percent."

"People are more confident that their vote will count this time," he said. "Everybody is so worried about what happened in 2000, that if there is the smallest hint of something going bad, they squash it immediately."

But whether a soldier mails in a ballot application, receives a ballot, fills it in correctly and sends it to the right place with a timely postmark is something beyond DeCelle's control. "We do not take it to the mailbox for them," he said.

### **Ballots make priority mail**

Ballots that do make it to the mailbox probably will have a relatively quick trip home. Within the Military Postal Service Agency, ballots have priority for overseas shipment, according to Assistant Deputy Director Mark DeDomenic. "If any mail moves, this stuff will move first," he said.

On the domestic side, the U.S. Postal Service has promised to ship outgoing and incoming ballots via overnight mail between military overseas shipping stations in New York, San Francisco and Miami and more than 5,700 local elections boards, spokesman Jim Quirk said.

Even critics of the armed forces' overseas voting process concede that logistics have been improved and troops appear better informed about voting.

The Pentagon "has done a better job of getting the materials out to military personnel at home and abroad," said Samuel Wright of the non-profit Military Voting Rights Project.

Nonetheless, Wright predicts "a lot of service members are going to be disenfranchised" because it still takes too long to distribute and collect ballots.

Indeed, there is a confused quality to the Pentagon's get-out-the-vote effort, an apparent consequence of the decision earlier this year to kill a \$22 million project for Internet voting.

The cancellation of the Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment because of security concerns sent military planners scrambling to Plan B, an effort to step up distribution and collection of ballots via fax or e-mail.

As recently as August, military officials were lobbying state election authorities to accept such ballots. But in many states, that meant changing laws on ballot privacy and security, and many state officials said the Pentagon's request came too late.

"That's the kind of thing that should been

**MORE**

resolved before the first of the year," said Kevin Kennedy, director of the Wisconsin State Elections Board. "I would be very reluctant without legislative authorization to accept a faxed ballot."

As a result, participation in faxed and e-mail voting is a decidedly mixed bag, according to Defense Department data.

Fourteen states will not send or accept faxed or e-mailed ballots.

Thirty-two states allow ballots to be transmitted to troops via fax--but only 21 will accept a completed ballot by fax. In Illinois, the Cook County and Chicago elections boards will fax out ballots but require a postal return. State elections board Executive Director Dan White said he believes all other elections authorities in Illinois will use the mail exclusively.

Military voters from Missouri and North Dakota can vote by e-mail. But both e-mail and fax voting have been clouded by concerns about privacy.

In both cases voters must sign waivers acknowledging a surrender of privacy rights. That's because ballots are not sealed and do not move directly from voters to election authorities.

#### **No guarantee vote will count**

Once a ballot lands in a local elections office, it's still not guaranteed to be tallied because states have different deadlines for accepting overseas ballots.

Illinois, for instance, requires a ballot to arrive at its destination by the close of polls, on Nov. 2. But Ohio counts an overseas ballot if it is postmarked by the close of polls and is received within 10 days after the election. Florida tallies overseas votes received until Nov. 10.

The quirks of the military balloting system may be especially significant this year. The race between President Bush and Sen. John Kerry is close, and the number of military personnel outside the U.S. is more than double the 200,000 posted overseas in 2000.

Some swing states have high concentrations of military voters abroad who could make the difference if the race stays close.

Interest in the campaign among service members overseas appears to be high. Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke, a spokeswoman for the Pentagon's Federal Voting Assistance Program, said the Pentagon has had to supply extra fax lines at its electronic depot in Alexandria, Va., which collects overseas ballots.

As of Oct. 4, the Cook County Board of Elections received 2,295 military ballot applications, 600 more than it received for the 2000 election, said spokesman Scott Burnham.

What this will mean for the candidates is unclear.

Republicans predict that their traditional advantage among military voters will hold for a candidate who has declared himself a war president. Democrats see the casualties and hardships of Iraq turning average enlisted troops, and even some junior officers, against Bush.

"A lot of guys who don't ever vote are going to vote for Kerry because they see him as having the biggest resolve to get us out of here," said Moyette, the National Guardsman.

"If I do vote, I'll vote for Kerry," said Moyette, 29, an X-ray technician from Riverside, Calif. "If I felt there was a point to our being here it would be a different story. But I don't see the purpose in it."

Other soldiers and Marines in Iraq want to stick with the current commander in chief. They fear that Kerry would pull out of Iraq "before the job is done," as one Bush supporter put it.

#### **Vote overseas could determine winner here**

With 435,000 U.S. troops abroad for this year's presidential election, ballots from overseas could play a pivotal role in determining how swing states vote. In 2000, 69 percent of U.S. troops abroad voted.

States with most troops abroad

1. Texas 44,236 2. California 39,513 3. Florida 34,771 4. New York 21,272 5. Pennsylvania 16,175 6. Illinois 15,756 7. Ohio 14,559 8. North Carolina 13,711 9. Washington 13,074 10. Virginia 12,931 13. Missouri 9,358 24. Wisconsin 5,657 28. Minnesota 4,744 32. Iowa 4,030 37. New Mexico 3,387 Note: Totals as of July 2004

# Aviation Museum Reopens For Tours

## *Ivan-Weary Visitors Come For Distraction*

By Kris Thoma

It's just as spectacular as ever.

The drive through Pensacola Naval Air Station to the National Museum of Naval Aviation looks like the rest of the surrounding neighborhoods: lifeless and leafless. But the museum -- which weathered Hurricane Ivan with minimal damage -- reopened Monday, and its breathtaking exhibits provided weary residents with a well-deserved diversion.

Longing for a break from the discouraging views along nearly every street in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, residents flocked to the museum after 25 days of wondering whether it really had made it through the storm. They were treated to free commemorative T-shirts featuring the Blue Angels and discounts on IMAX theater exhibits and meals at the Cubi Bar Cafe.

"It's very nice to be able to come in here and see everything in order and where it belongs, instead of seeing everything scattered everywhere," said Pensacola resident Heather Harrington, 35. "We come all the time to the museum, so when I heard about the free T-shirts, I thought, 'Oh, cool.' "

Her youngest daughter, 9-year-old Katie Harrington, who is home-schooled along with her two brothers and one sister, said they will probably have to write a report on their visit to the museum.

"We also had to write a report on Ivan and all the damage it did," Katie said.

Monday was the first day of school for all public school students in Escambia and Santa Rosa, so most of the museum's visitors were adults or parents with younger children.

First-time visitor Jennifer O'Hanlon, 34,

brought her 16-month old son, Dylan, to the museum. The stay-at-home Pensacola mom said she has been struggling to find things to do in the last few weeks because most parks are closed and the beaches are restricted.

"We used to go to the beach about three times a week," she said. "He only has one Elmo DVD, and we've just about worn that out. He loves this because he can run around like it's a park."

Angelia and Dennis Wood of Pace said they wanted to see firsthand the damage at the museum, which they have visited once before.

"We didn't expect it to be here," Dennis Wood said.

The couple, originally from Michigan, moved to Pace in February.

"We were just getting familiar with the area, and now it looks totally different," Angelia Wood said.

To satisfy their curiosity and divert their attention, the visit to the museum made for a relaxing day for the Woods.

"Just to get away from all the 'storm this, storm that' was nice," Angelia Wood said. "After a while, it kind of gets to you."

Retired Vice Adm. Jack Fetterman, president and chief executive officer of the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, said that was exactly the point.

"I felt very strongly that the museum will be therapeutic to the people of Pensacola who are now living in horrible surroundings," he said.

The museum gave away 1,200 T-shirts in the first hour Monday. Fetterman said he originally ordered 5,000, but plans to order 5,000 more and continue handing them out for the next two weeks.



# CHINFO NEWS CLIPS

*Navy Office of Information, Washington, DC*

*(703) 697-5342*

**Tuesday, October 12, 2004**

**INSIDE THE NAVY 11 OCT 04**

## **England Swears In Aviles, Former Comptroller, As Under Secretary**

By Christopher J. Castelli

Navy Secretary Gordon England swore in Dionel Aviles as the 30th Navy under secretary in an informal ceremony in the Pentagon Oct. 8.

In a statement released that day, the Pentagon said a formal ceremony would be scheduled later for Aviles, who is moving up from his former job as Navy comptroller. In his new post, Aviles is the No. 2 civilian leader in the Navy Department.

"It is a great honor and privilege to continue to serve our outstanding sailors and Marines -- they are truly the world's finest," Aviles said in the Pentagon's prepared statement. "I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to continuing to work with the senior leadership of the Department of Defense,

the Navy and Marine Corps, and the Congress to transform our maritime forces to better address the challenges we will face in the future."

Prior to becoming the Navy's comptroller, Aviles served on Capitol Hill. From 1995 to 2001, he was a professional staff member on the House Armed Services Committee

He also served as a budget examiner in the national security division of the Office of Management and Budget.

A Navy veteran, Aviles holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy and a master's degree in business administration from George Washington University.